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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/750,635	12/28/2000	Chien-Sheng Chou	XER 2 0396 D/A0773	6973

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Albert P. Sharpe, III  
Fay, Sharpe, Fagan, Minnich & McKee, LLP  
7th Floor  
1100 Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114

EXAMINER
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BLAIR, DOUGLAS B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2142	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/750,635

Applicant(s)

CHOU ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas B. Blair

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-19 and 21-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-19 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/25/2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-23 are currently pending in this application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6, 11-12, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,920,430 to Berton et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,910,018 to Okada et al..
5. As to claim 1, Berton teaches a system for generating a requisition for user selectable inventory items comprising: a client system connected to a network (Figure 4, reference number 401); a server computer system connected to the network, the network interconnecting the client computer system and the server computer system, the client computer configured to allow a plurality of users to access the server computer system (Figure 4), the server computer system

Art Unit: 2142

configured to: associate one or more of a plurality of work sites with each of said users, each worksite defining a group of users (col. 4, lines 26-48, each user is associated with a government agency which is considered a work site); associated inventory items with one or more of a plurality of work sites using a validation rules database associating each of said user selectable items with one or more of a plurality of work sites with which a user must be associated to verify the user requested inventory item for a requisition (col. 4, lines 26-48, the eProcurement system associates vendor items with each agency); identify associated inventory items which may be requisitioned by a user associated with the one or more associated work sites (col. 4, lines 26-48, the eProcurement system contains means for picking goods and services for the agencies); receive and process a request for one or more user selected inventory items (col. 4, line 49-col. 5, line 3); verify that each user requested inventory item is an item associated with the user's one or more associated work sites (col. 4, lines 26-48, the eProcurement system verifies that goods and services are available to the agencies); and generate a requisition for the verified user requested inventory items (col. 4, line 49-col. 5, line 3); however Berton does not explicitly teach the act of identifying associated inventory items which may not be requisitioned by a user.

Okada teaches a system for generating a requisition for user selectable inventory items comprising: the act of identifying associated inventory items which may not be requisitioned by a user associated with a worksite(col. 18, lines 11-29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Berton regarding a requisition system for selecting items based on work site with the teachings of Okada regarding the selection of items

Art Unit: 2142

which may not be requisitioned by a user because some items may to be appropriate for certain worksites (Okada, col. 1, lines 38-55).

6. As to claim 2, Berton teaches a client computer system comprising a web browser for accessing the network and communicating with the server over the network (col. 4, lines 26-48).

7. As to claim 3, Okada teaches a server system comprising a requester database containing one or more of a user identifier, a password, and personal information for the plurality of users (col. 4, lines 40-63).

8. As to claims 4 and 15, Okada teaches a requester database containing at least one shared user entry, the shared entry associated with a single location (col. 4, lines 40-63).

9. As to claim 5, Okada teaches a server system comprising a location database associating at least one of a plurality of locations with each of the plurality of users (col. 4, lines 40-63).

10. As to claim 6, Okada teaches a server computer comprising an inventory database containing information about the user selectable items (col. 5, lines 3-19).

11. As to claims 11 and 23, they feature the same limitations as claim 1 and are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1.

12. As to claim 12, it is rejected for the same reasons as claim 2.

13. As to claim 13, Berton teaches a method wherein the client computer system and the server computer system communicate via the Internet (col. 4, lines 26-48).

14. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,920,430 to Berton et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,910,018 to Okada et al. in further view of U.S. Patent Number 6,415,320 to Hess et al..

Art Unit: 2142

15. As to claim 7, the Berton-Okada combination teaches the system of claim 8, however the Berton-Okada combination does not teach information comprising an item description and an image.

Hess teaches describing a sale item that with a description and an image (See Figure 6B).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the Berton-Okada combination regarding a system for purchasing with the teachings of Hess regarding the description of an item because a description and an image provide an ideal way for a browser to show an item.

16. Claims 9 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,920,430 to Berton et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,910,018 to Okada et al. in further view of U.S. Patent Number 6,636,863 to Friesen.

17. As to claim 9, the Berton-Okada combination teaches the system of claim 10, however the Berton-Okada combination does not explicitly teach a database storing a list of items pre-selected by the user to be used at a later time to create a requisition.

Friesen teaches database storing a list of items pre-selected by the user to be used at a later time to create a requisition (col. 5, line 23-col. 6, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the Berton-Okada combination regarding a system for purchasing with the teachings of Friesen regarding storing a list of pre-selected items because storing a list allows for greater flexibility for the client (Friesen, col. 3, line 52-col. 4, line 35).

Art Unit: 2142

18. As to claim 21, it features the same limitations as claim 9 and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9.

19. Claims 10, 14, 17-18, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,920,430 to Berton et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,910,018 to Okada et al. in further view of U.S. Patent Number 5,987,423 to Arnold et al..

20. As to claim 10, the Berton-Okada combination teaches the system of claim 1, however the Berton-Okada combination does not explicitly teach a requisition database containing information about a previously generated requisition.

Arnold teaches a requisition database containing information about previously generated requisitions (col. 18, lines 4-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the Berton-Okada combination regarding a system for purchasing with the teachings of Arnold regarding the storage of previously generated requisitions because previously generated requisitions could be useful for creating new requisitions (Arnold, col. 18, lines 4-22).

21. As to claim 14, the Berton-Okada combination teaches the system of claim 1, however the Berton-Okada combination does not explicitly teach retrieving information previously stored for a user.

Arnold teaches retrieving information previously stored for a user (col. 18, lines 4-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the Berton-Okada combination regarding a system for purchasing with the teachings of Arnold regarding retrieving information previously

Art Unit: 2142

stored for a user because previously stored information could be useful for creating new requisitions (Arnold, col. 18, lines 4-22).

22. As to claim 17, Arnold teaches retrieving previously stored information associated with each user (col. 18, lines 4-22).

23. As to claim 18, Arnold teaches retrieving previously stored information about user selectable items (col. 18, lines 4-22).

24. As to claim 22, it features the same limitations as claim 10 and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 10.

25. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,920,430 to Berton et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,910,018 to Okada et al. in further view of U.S. Patent Number 5,970,475 to Barnes.

26. As to claim 16, the Berton-Okada combination teaches the system of claim 11, however the Berton-Okada combination does not teach a managerial account generating a requisition.

Barnes teaches a managerial account generating a requisition for a user (col. 25, lines 26-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the Berton-Okada combination regarding a system for purchasing with the teachings of Barnes regarding a managerial account generating a requisition for a user because allowing a managerial account to set up requisitions reduces the burden placed on other to complete requisitions (Barnes, col. 25, lines 26-40).

27. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,920,430 to Berton et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,910,018 to Okada et al. in



Art Unit: 2142

further view of U.S. Patent Number 5,987,423 to Arnold et al. and U.S. Patent Number 6,415,320 to Hess et al.

28. As to claim 19, it features the same limitations as claim 7 and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 7.

### ***Response to Arguments***

29. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

30. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas B. Blair whose telephone number is 571-272-3893. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2142

Douglas Blair

*DBB*

*Kamini Shah*  
KAMINI SHAH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER